

- I had a fairly standard address, one you might expect when opening up stewardship season. I wrote it a while ago. I liked it... Allane liked it... But, with all that's going on, I've decided to depart from my text. I sat down last night and rewrote my part. I must warn you, this could be hazardous.
- Suffice it to say, what is happening in here in Maine, in Minnesota and elsewhere is numbing, is traumatic, for all of us. Watching innocent people being rounded up, houses broken into, warrantless searches, a 5-yr old child being whisked off like a common criminal, with no rights. It is, for me, far too reminiscent of the terror Jews in Berlin were traumatized with in the 1930's. My stomach aches. And my mind is whirling, yet my resolve is hardening.
- It is this congregation, this church where I find solace, where I can find people - thinking, aware, educated people crying out for humanity. We visit our ailing members because of our humanity. We deeply care for each other because of our humanity. And we hurt when we see people brutalized because they are black, brown, poor, different ...
- We all do not agree on every aspect of our particular spiritual journey, but we all believe in treating every person with dignity, compassion, and respect - that's what I call humanity. I am desperate to be around that. So, donating to this church for me is not a luxury, it is not a "nice thing to do", it's a necessity. Selfish, yes, I get far more out of it than I sometimes feel I contribute. It is people like those sitting here, those sitting next to you, who never forget that humanity is our fundamental

purpose in living. I donate to be around that, to be with people who believe that. Amen...